

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 249678
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 IO-13 SP-02 PM-05
/053 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RLKATES:JR
APPROVED BY AF RMMOOSE
AF/C:LWALKER

-----101799 190507Z /14
R 181548Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, USGA, CG, US

SUBJECT:MOOSE'S MEETING WITH UMBA: PIERRE HOTEL

1. FOLLOWING IS MEMCON OF OCTOBER 5 MEETING IN
NEW YORK BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND AF/C
DIRECTOR WALKER AND UMBA.
2. MR. MOOSE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND FOREIGN MINISTER
UMBA'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON OCTOBER 3 AND HAD
THEREFORE ARRANGED TO FOLLOW UP ON CERTAIN POINTS WITH UMBA.

NGUZA AFFAIR

AFTER INITIAL COURTESIES, MR. MOOSE LED OF THE
DISCUSSION BY MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- YOU AND OTHER ZAIRIAN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE TOLD US
RECENTLY THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU WAS PLEASED THAT
WE HAD DIRECTED OUR INTERVENTIONS ON NGUZA'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 249678

BEHALF THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AS
OPPOSED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHO HAD GONE PUBLIC,
AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO COMMUTE
NGUZA'S SENTENCE REFLECTED OUR INTERVENTION.

-- WE WILL ALWAYS TRY TO HANDLE PROBLEMS QUIETLY,
BUT AT TIMES ISSUES SUCH AS THE NGUZA AFFAIR

CAN GET OUT OF CONTROL. FOR EXAMPLE, BELGIAN HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER WOLF CAME TO WASHINGTON LAST WEEK WITH THE INTENTION OF MAKING THE NGUZA AFFAIR A PUBLIC ISSUE.

-- THIS, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD HAVE BEEN UNFORTUNATE, AND WE WERE ABLE TO PERSUADE WOLF THAT SUCH AN

ACTION WOULD BE UNHELPFUL. BUT WE ALSO TOLD HIM THAT WE TOO WERE CONCERNED OVER NGUZA'S ULTIMATE FATE, ESPECIALLY IN THE LIGHT OF REPORTS THAT HIS HEALTH WAS BAD.

-- I RECOUNT ALL OF THIS TO SHOW YOU HOW WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE NGUZA AFFAIR FROM BECOMING A PUBLIC ISSUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

-- BUT I ALSO WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER THE NGUZA AFFAIR IN THE CONGRESS, THE AMERICAN PRESS AND AMONG HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN GENERAL. AND THUS, THE NGUZA AFFAIR REMAINS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS.

-- WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S POLITICAL ACUMEN AND IN HIS HUMANITARIAN VIRTUES. WE BELIEVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 249678

THAT THE DECISIONS HE WILL ULTIMATELY TAKE IN THIS CASE -- SOVEREIGN DECISIONS -- WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS FACTORS AT PLAY.

-- UMBA TOOK ALL THIS IN AND CLEARLY GOT THE MESSAGE THAT WHILE WE WERE PLEASED WITH MOBUTU'S DECISION TO COMMUTE NGUZA'S DEATH SENTENCE, WE EXPECTED THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU WOULD MAKE ADDITIONAL, HUMANE DECISIONS IN THE EX-FOREIGN MINISTER'S REGARD. UMBA WENT BACK OVER THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST NGUZA, POINTED OUT THAT MOBUTU WAS THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN MOST PERSONALLY TOUCHED BY THE TREASON OF A CLOSE COLLABORATOR AND TRIED TO PIN MOOSE DOWN AS TO JUST WHAT MORE THE U.S. EXPECTED MOBUTU TO DO.

-- MOOSE DID NOT BITE, BUT RATHER REITERATED OUR CONFIDENCE IN MOBUTU'S JUDGMENT -- SOVEREIGN JUDGMENT.

ON THE NATURE OF US-ZAIRIAN FRIENDSHIP

-- MR. MOOSE THEN ADDRESSED A MAJOR PREOCCUPATION OF ZAIRE, THAT CONCERNING THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

-- YOU SAID TO THE SECRETARY THAT IT SEEMED THE US WAS ASHAMED OF ITS FRIENDSHIP WITH ZAIRE. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE AND THE NEXT DAY PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD YOU THAT WE WERE PROUD OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ZAIRE, AND I WANT TO REITERATE THESE SENTIMENTS.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OUR FRIENDSHIP CAN BE PUT IN AN EMBARRASSING

SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE SHABA WAR WHEN CONGRESSIONAL AND US OPINION FEARED TOO DEEP AN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT CERTAIN VERY REAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 249678

CONSTRAINTS WERE PLACED UPON OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS OF AN OLD FRIEND.

-- THERE ARE POLITICAL FACTS WITH WHICH WE BOTH HAVE TO DEAL AND AS LONG AS WE ARE BOTH AWARE OF THE CONSTRAONTS, WE CAN INDEED WORK TOGETHER.

-- IN THIS REGARD, AND AS THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT, PROGRESS ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY REFORMS IN ZAIRE IS THE SUREST BASE FROM WHICH THE USG CAN CONTINUE TO MARSHALL SUPPORT FOR YOUR COUNTRY. I CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE THIS POINT.

-- UMBA THANKED MOOSE FOR HIS FRANKNESS AND SAID THAT IT WAS THIS KIND OF OPEN DISCUSSION WHICH CLEARED THE AIR AND ALLOWED BOTH SIDES TO PROCEED WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FACTORS AT PLAY. UMBA WAS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF MOOSE'S ANALYSIS OF BOTH CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE CONCERNS OVER ZAIRE, THE IMAGE PROBLEM FROM WHICH ZAIRE SUFFERED AND THE VERY REAL NEED TO IMPROVE THAT IMAGE THROUGH CONCRETE REFORMS.

ON THE MILITARY SIDE

-- MOOSE ALSO MADE FOLLOWING POINTS RELATIVE TO OUR RECENT POSITIVE DECISIONS ON FMS:

-- AS THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT, WE CONSIDER OUR RECENT DECISIONS ON MILITARY SUPPLY TO BE A GAUGE OF OUR DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS.

BUT THERE IS ONE POINT I HAVE MADE TO AMBASSADOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 249678

KASONGO AND WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE WITH YOU: THERE IS PROFOUND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN THAT US MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO ZAIRE MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO UNITA OR OTHER ANGOLAN OPPOSITION GROUPS.

-- WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE ZAIRE'S INTENTION, BUT GIVEN CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES, WE MUST MAKE THE POINT CONCERNING THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS.

--- I MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT THAT WE CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF M-16 AMMUNITION TO BE A ONE-TIME TRANSACTION. IN OTHER WORDS, THE 10 MILLION ROUNDS SHOULD LAST YOU INDEFINITELY OR THROUGH ANY FORESEEABLE CONTINGENCY. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE FUTURE REQUESTS FOR M-16 AMMO.

-- UMBA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY AND POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR KASONGO HAD ALREADY TRANSMITTED MOOSE'S PREVIOUS DEMARCHE ON THIS SUBJECT TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU. HE REASSURED US THAT WE NEED HAVE NO FEAR CONCERNING UNAUTHORIZED THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS.

-- MR. WALKER SAID THAT DURING HIS BRIEFINGS OF CONGRESS CONCERNING OUR M-16 AMMO DECISIONS, HE HAD FOUND GREAT CONCERN OVER REPORTS THAT ZAIRE WAS ON THE VERGE OF REINSTITUTING ITS ASSISTANCE TO UNITA. THESE CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS HAD POINTED OUT THAT IF SUCH WERE TO PROVE TO BE THE CASE, ALL BILATERAL PROGRAMS WITH ZAIRE COULD BE IN JEOPARDY. UMBA SAID HE GOT THE POINT AND WOULD RELAY IT TO MOBUTU.

ZAIRIAN DEMARCHE ON ILO

-- AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, UMBA SAID THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO INTERVENE WITH THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 249678

USG TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO. UMBA IMPLIED THAT BELGIUM AND AFRICAN STATES HAD ASKED MOBUTU TO UNDERTAKE THIS DEMARCHE SINCE THEY ALL BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE US REMAIN WITHIN THE

ORGANIZATION AND "NOT ALLOW THE COMMUNISTS TO TAKE OVER." UMBA OFFERED TO CALL ON GEORGE MEANY WHILE

HE WAS IN THE US -- IF THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

-- MR. MOOSE SAID HE GREATLY APPRECIATED ZAIRE'S
INTERVENTION IN THIS MATTER. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE
HISTORY LEADING UP TO THE US POSITION AND POINTED OUT
THAT AMERICA'S FRIENDS NEEDED TO EFFECT CHANGES WITHIN
THE ILO IF THEY WISHED US TO REMAIN. MOOSE SAID HE
WOULD PASS ON THE GIST OF UMBA'S INTERVENTION. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE249678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLKATES:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770383-1025
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771046/aaaabnnj.tel
Line Count: 232
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9403a62c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 873416
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOOSE'S MEETING WITH UMBA: PIERRE HOTEL
TAGS: PINT, CG, US, (UMBA DI LUTETE), (MOOSE, RICHARD)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9403a62c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009